

Library Board of Trustees

Durham County Library

April 15, 2002

Public Hearing on Proposed Computer Use Policy

Attendance: Bessie Carrington, Chair; Ann Craver, Carl Hodges, William McKee, Lauren Singdalhsen, Elsa Woods, board members; Dale Gaddis, Tracy Babiasz, Rheda Epstein, Pam Jaskot, Priscilla Lewis, John McConagha, Kathleen Moeller, library staff; Harold Chestnut, community member.

Absent: Robert Otterbourg, Jackie Hall, Nancy Wardropper

The public hearing was opened by Mrs. Carrington. The purpose of the hearing was to obtain input from the public about the library's Computer Use Policy. The library is proposing a revision to its Computer Use Policy to address more specifically the safety of minors when using the Internet and others forms of electronic communication in the library.

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Mrs. Craver asked what type of anecdotal information staff has received from the public – do parents feel comfortable with the fact that they have the responsibility for their child's access to the Internet.

Tracy Babiasz and Kathleen Moeller stated that they have not had any direct comments from the public. Priscilla Lewis stated there have not been any problems in the branches.

Mr. McKee expressed concern about children having access to the Internet without filters. Ms. Gaddis explained that the library staff is working to provide Internet access on child safe workstations. These workstations are only connected to sites that are linked from the State Library's "Start Squad" portal.

Mr. Chestnut stated that the community is interested in what the policy is and how to get a copy. Ms. Gaddis stated that the Computer Use Policy is available at all library locations and also on the web site.

The public hearing was closed at 3:15pm.